

A NEW SNAKE OF THE FAMILY *UROPELTIDAE*.

BY

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(With a plate.)

Among a small collection of snakes in St. Joseph's College, Bangalore, I discovered a small Uropelt which is not only a species new to science, but constitutes a very well marked genus, combining the characters of *Plectrurus*, *Pseudoplectrurus*, and *Platyplectrurus*.

BRACHYOPHIDIUM, gen. nov.

General characters.—Body short, of considerably greater calibre posteriorly than anteriorly, cylindrical, smooth. Head small. Snout narrowly rounded. Eye in an ocular shield. No mental groove. Neck not constricted. Tail short, strongly and increasingly more compressed from base to apex.

Lepidosis. *Nasals*.—Meeting behind the rostral. *Internasals*.—Absent. *Præfrontals*.—A pair. *Supraoculars*.—Absent. *Præocular*.—Absent. *Ocular*.—Present. *Postocular*.—Absent. *Temporal*.—Present. *Supralabials*.—Four. *Infralabials*.—Four. *Sublinguals*.—Absent. *Costals*. In 13 rows anteriorly, in 15 rows at midbody to vent. Smooth. Last row enlarged; about three-fourths the breadth of the ventrals. *Supracaudals*.—Smooth. *Terminal Shield*.—Small, compressed, ending as a single point.

Ventrals.—Moderately developed. *Anal*.—Divided, about twice the breadth of the last ventral. *Subcaudals*.—In pairs.

BRACHYOPHIDIUM RHODOGASTER, spec. nov.

General characters.—Snout narrowly rounded. Nostril in the anterior part of the nasal. Eye more than half the length of the ocular.

Lepidosis.—*Rostral*.—Deeper than broad, portion visible above equal to the suture between the nasals. *Nasals*.—Large, in contact behind the rostral. *Præfrontals*.—Long, nearly as long as the frontal, in contact with the nasal, 2nd and 3rd supralabials, and ocular. *Frontal*.—As long as the snout, much longer than broad, equal to the parietals; the ocular sutures about one third the parietal sutures. *Temporal*.—One; shorter than the ocular, about half the parietals. *Supralabials*.—Four, fourth longest. *Infralabials*.—Three, the first in contact behind the mental. *Costals*.—Two head-lengths behind the head 13, midbody 15, two head-lengths before the vent 15. The 4th row divides about four and a half head-lengths behind the head. *Ventrals*.—143. *Anal*. Divided. *Subcaudals*. 7 pairs.

Length.—178 mm. (7 inches).

Dentition.—The maxilla has 10 ? teeth.

Colour.—Head blackish-brown above. Body dorsally uniform blackish-brown. An ill-defined and rather obscure pale spot on the neck behind each parietal shield. Ventrally roseate from chin to vent, including the ultimate row of costals. A median pink subcaudal stripe.

The specimen is a gravid female, and contained three eggs about 12 mm. long.

It is unfortunate that there is no record of the date of capture or the locality where found. However I found specimens of *Platyplectrurus trilineatus*, *Silybura pulneyensis*, and *S. nigra* in the collection, and as it is known that specimens were received from Shembaganur everything points to its coming from the Palnai Hills.

My thanks are due to Father Accouturier for allowing me to present the specimen to the British Museum.

The accompanying figure shows the detail of the lepidosis but the specimen is rather shrivelled, and the eye may not be quite accurate.
